Farm Engineering Units.

* 376. THIRU N. DENNIS : Will the Hon. the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state—

(a) whether there are proposals under the consideration of the Government to set up Farm Engineering Units in this State; and

(b) if so, the details thereof?

THE HON. THIRU Si. Pa. ADITANAR :

(a) Yes.

(b) The Central Government have proposed a scheme to afford employment opportunities to Engineers by commencing Agro-Service Centres in Block, District and State levels. Each Block-level Agro-service Centre will be entitled to a loan of Rs. 4 lakhs and an interest subsidy of Rs. 20,000. Each District Level Centre will be entitled to Central assistance of Rs. 2.89 lakhs and the State Level Centre will receive assistance of Rs. 5 lakhs. There will be no financial commitment to the State Government. We have undertaken to implement the Scheme in right earnest.

THIRU N. DENNIS : May I know from the Hon. Minister whether all the Units started functioning?

THE HON. THIRU Si. Pa. ADITANAR : We are just commencing to implement the scheme.

Rigs.

* 377 Q.—THIRU B. VENKATASAMY : Will the Hon the Minister for Co-operation be pleased to state :

(a) whether there is any proposal to purchase rigs to dig bore wells in the State; and

(b) if so, when they will be purchased?

மாண்புமிகு திரு. சி. பா. ஆதித்தனர் :

(அ) ஆம்.

(இ) நடப்பாண்டில்.

THIRU B. VENKATASWAMY : Sir, we are digging open wells through the Co-operative Societies which will take more time. May I request the Hon. Minister for Co-operation to introduce rigs by which we can dig a well within one or two days?

THE HON. THIRU Si. Pa. ADITANAR : We have proposed to import 30 drilling rigs—Power drills—from the Soviet Union and to buy 10 such drills from the Heavy Engineering Corporation, Ranchi, which is a public sector Corporation.

THIRU K. NAGARAJAN : Mr. Speaker, Sir, I would like to know from the Hon. Minister whether preference will be given to the rigs manufactured at Coimbatore or indigenous rigs like that?